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Curios and Relics  
Furniture  
Chairs  
Rocking Chair – Made by  
Thomas Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

### **Old Rocking Chair Of Lincoln's Father Sold**

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 20. — A rocking chair said to have been made by Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, and afterwards given by him in payment of a dentist's bill, has become the property of Elmer F. Rudee, of Los Angeles. It is being exhibited at the public school.

The chair according to the records, was given to Dr. Jesse Hall, in Charleston, Coles county, Illinois, in 1849. It is said "The Emancipator" was sitting reading in the chair when the dentist called for settlement of the bill. The elder Lincoln asked his son to get up and when he had taken the only other available seat, one on the floor, his father persuaded the dentist to accept the chair and receipt the bill.

Dr. Hall, who died here recently at the age of 90, left the relic to his widow, who died soon afterwards. Herbert L. Gray, who next owned the chair, sold it to Miss Agnes Woodward, a friend of Rudee's. She presented it to the present owner.

The chair, made with a jackknife out of hickory and sassafras, still is in excellent condition.

HALL HICKORY ROCKERS

*see other side*

SOUVENIR

PRICE 15c

## COME AND SEE

THAT OLD HICKORY ROCKING CHAIR IN WHICH  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAT; MADE BY  
HIS FATHER WITH A JACKKNIFE

*D.P.A.W.*



Judge Charles E. Bull impersonating Lincoln, and Joseph H. Hazelton, who was program boy at Ford's Theater the night that Lincoln was shot and who witnessed the tragedy.

This chair has been on display at numerous places, and viewed by thousands of Lincoln lovers. When it was on exhibition at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel, it was featured as "That old \$10,000 hickory rocking chair in which Abraham Lincoln sat;—made by his father with a jackknife."

The Los Angeles Times, on September 14, 1923, published a picture of the chair along with the following story:—"Lincoln relic found here; chair traded in by the late president's father to meet dentist's bill; owned by Angeleno, Mr. E. F. Rudeen."

(over)



"Abe, get up a minute,—I want to show the doctor that chair." Abraham arose from the chair, and without taking his eyes from the book in his hand, seated himself on the floor, while his father, Tom Lincoln, took the chair and presented it to Dr. Jesse Hall for his inspection. "There she is, Doc, and she is a dandy, newly painted,—and I made her with a jack knife out of white ash and hickory, and she is built to last a life time. If you want her as payment for that tooth pullin' job, why take her and welcome!"

A statement from the postmaster in the Lincoln home town, declares that Dr. Hall was related to Abe's step-mother, and practiced dentistry there for a season. The doctor treasured the relic and brought it with him to Los Angeles where, about the year 1910, he died, at the ripe old age of over 90. Then his widow moved next door into a house in the rear, where she died a few years later, and the chair became the property of the people who owned the house. They were rank Southerners, of the kind who hated Abraham Lincoln, or anything pertaining to Lincoln. The wife especially held this attitude, and ordered the disposal of the rocker. In a somewhat round-about way, this fact became known to a friend of mine, Miss Agnes Woodward, a prominent lady of Los Angeles, who informed me of this interesting fact, and through whose instrumentality the chair later came into my possession. I can assure you that I prize it most highly.

While giving the bird lore and Lincoln programs in the schools throughout the country, I often longed for something distinctly Lincolnian, such as a letter, or signature, to display before the people. Then as though in answer to prayer, this valuable relic came to me. No other article could have suited the purpose better, considering the beautiful story that could be woven around the old chair in which the mother sat and rocked her children to sleep. We can, in our imagination see Nancy Hanks Lincoln in the rude log cabin, seated in this chair, rocking her baby boy to sleep, or telling Bible stories as she dreamed of a glorious future for him.

But what chance had her Abe, with both environment and heredity against him? The answer to this query has been aptly expressed in the following simple verse:

*"I passed a hovel around whose door  
The signs of penury were strewn;  
I saw the grimed and littered floor,  
The walls of logs from tree trunks hewn.  
I said, 'The gates of life are shut  
To those within that wretched pen.  
But lo! from out that lowly hut  
Came one to rule a world of men."*

You must hear the rest of this thrilling story:

Though brought up in a country where the use of booze and tobacco was the order of the day, Abraham Lincoln never used any of it: and when our country was threatened with destruction, he led the Union forces to victory.

Of his Godly mother, Lincoln said, "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

#### Lincoln Knights' Pledge

"I will emulate Abraham Lincoln in National Loyalty and in the non-use of booze and tobacco."

Ladies who comply with this pledge are known as Ladies of the Lincoln Knights.

In addition to Mr. Rudeen's writings and lectures on Lincoln, he is known as the peer of whistlers, and song bird mimics. Don't fail to hear him!

The old chair has the original hickory bark seat, and the old hand-made wrought iron nails.

This souvenir entitles the bearer to a reserved seat at the entertainment, and from that group will one person be chosen to have the honor of sitting in the old Lincoln Chair.

Mr. E. F. Rudeen  
2408 Medford St., Los Angeles, Calif.

While Mr. Rudeen's lecture is highly entertaining, it also registers a deep sense of patriotism in the hearts of the listeners, and his ability at producing the calls of our feathered songsters can be judged from the following,—

"This will serve to introduce Mr. E. F. Rudeen, who has just finished a one week's engagement at our house. He proved a big success."

(Signed) Sid Grauman,— of Grauman Theatres.

Fee to be arranged.

Phone Fitzroy 5492.



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